

What is claimed:

- Sub A<sub>1</sub>
1. An electrical connector, comprising:  
a housing;  
a plurality of surface mount contacts; and  
areas of reduced rigidity in the housing.
  - 5 2. The electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein the areas of reduced rigidity in the housing are located at positions furthest from a neutral point of the connector.
  3. The electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein each of the areas of reduced rigidity comprises one of a notch and a slot.
  4. The electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein the areas of reduced rigidity are  
10 disposed to absorb stress and accommodate warp.
  5. The electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein the housing comprises a dielectric material.
  6. The electrical connector according to claim 1, wherein the surface mount contacts comprise solder balls.
  - 15 7. The electrical connector according to claim 6, wherein the surface mount contacts comprise ball grid array surface mount contacts.
  8. A housing for an electrical connector, comprising:  
a frame; and  
areas of reduced rigidity in the frame.
  - 20 9. The housing according to claim 8, wherein the areas of reduced rigidity are located at positions furthest from a neutral point of the connector.
- Sub A<sub>2</sub>

10. The housing according to claim 8, wherein each of the areas of reduced rigidity comprises one of a notch and a slot.

11. The housing according to claim 8, wherein the areas of reduced rigidity are disposed to absorb stress and accommodate warp.

5 12. A method of reducing rigidity in a housing of an electrical connector, comprising:  
determining a neutral point of the connector; and  
removing a portion of the housing at a position relative to the neutral point.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the position is furthest from the neutral point.

10 14. The method according to claim 12, wherein the position is located to absorb stress and  
accommodate warp.

15. The method according to claim 12, wherein the portion is one of a slot and a notch.

Sub  
A3  
Add  
A4  
Add  
E1